

DRAMATIC SHIFT FORGES RUSSIANS TO CHANGE TACTICS

Warsaw Now Scene of Terrific Struggle—Czar Compelled to Defend Own Cities Because of German Aggression in East.

NEW YORK, Oct. 15.—Except for the sharp turn in fortune that came with the battle of the Marne, nothing in the history of the western campaign can compare in dramatic effect with the change that has come almost overnight, one may say, in the military situation in Poland and Galicia. This is the view expressed by the military expert of the New York Evening Post.

It may be summed up in a sentence: the world was expecting news of the beginning of a battle for the possession of Cracow and it learns that there is a great battle now under way for the possession of Warsaw.

On their northern wing the Russians had won a notable victory over the invader from East Prussia whom they had driven back over the frontier. On their southern wing they were apparently pressing the siege of Przemysl with vigor and had sent their outposts at least as far as Tarnow, 35 miles east of Cracow. On their center in Poland, to be sure, there were fragmentary and isolated reports of collisions with the enemy and Berlin claimed successes there, but so little attention was paid by the rival war offices to the conflict in that region that one was compelled to assume that the fighting in southern and central Poland was merely maneuvering on a large scale while the issues were being fought out north on the East Prussian and south in Galicia. Today it appears that the fighting on the wings has been regarded on the German side, at least, as subsidiary to the preparation for the main thrust through the heart of Poland against the capital.

At the same time there is no reason to suppose that the sudden change in the mere aspect of things means an equally startling change in the actual situation. If the contest now under way in Poland is for the possession of Warsaw and not of Cracow, it is not because Russia has met with disastrous defeat which has forced it to suspend aggressive operations and stand on the defensive. The abandonment of the siege of Przemysl was not to all appearances the result of a battle in which the Russians were beaten, but was the result of the application of German pressure along another part of the battle line, which has hitherto remained in almost complete obscurity. Ominous though it may seem for Russian prospects that the fall of Warsaw should be spoken of as an imminent possibility, there is no reason to suppose that the Petrograd War Office when it speaks of the withdrawal from Przemysl as dictated by strategic reasons.

What these reasons are will appear from a brief resume of the eastern campaign. Russian Poland is a wedge 230 miles long and 200 miles wide thrust into German territory. The Russian army for an invasion of the enemy's territory naturally demanded an advance on an even front. So that before the forces in central Poland were moved against Silesia, it was necessary for the Russians to the north and south to fight their way through East Prussia and Galicia respectively till they reach approximately the longitude of Warsaw. In the north the Germans were successful in beating off the attack. In the south the Russian near Tarnobrzeg, and the Russians were poured into their own frontier, only to make a stand on the Niemen and force back the invader. In the north the fighting has been a draw.

Russian successes on the south in Galicia have been noteworthy, but they have also been exaggerated in many respects as to the damage inflicted on the Austrian forces and as to the menace to Cracow. Even if the Russian advance had reached Tarnobrzeg, as is reported, it would have meant that the Czar's armies had attained a point on the general front on a line with Warsaw, and that before there could be any talk of a move on Cracow the forces in central Poland must be brought into play. But in central Poland there had been going on in a silence favored by the developments of events elsewhere an extraordinary concentration of German troops.

During the first weeks of the war the Germans occupied Lodz, only 50 miles from Warsaw, and virtually stretched the lines in a belt 50 miles wide across Poland from Thorn through Lodz, Piotrkow and Kielce to the Vistula. They did this without resistance because it apparently entered into the Russian plans to permit the occupation of that part of Poland, while the Russian advance was under way on the north and south flanks to East Prussia and Galicia. The Germans, on the other hand, once the menace to East Prussia had been shattered by General von Hindenburg's victory at Tannenberg, were content to concentrate in southwest Poland, confident that the Russian advance into Galicia could not be pressed dangerously near to Cracow without the co-operation of the Russian central armies; and these they were preparing to face. The story of German army corps rushed to the defense of Cracow probably has no basis in fact. Cracow was indirectly but effectively defended by the powerful German concentration in southwestern Poland, which must be shattered before the Russian armies of the South dared press further into Galicia.

Consequently when we read of the Germans now attacking the line of the Vistula and threatening Warsaw, we must recall that the situation is largely one of Russian's own choosing. The march of the Germans to the Vistula has been virtually unopposed, since the first serious fighting we hear of occurred about 20 miles west of the river. The really important question is in what strength the Russians are now present on the Vistula. Large forces have been engaged in the fighting on the Niemen. Large forces have been engaged in Galicia. It may be that under the veil which has covered operations in Poland a third strong Russian army has been concentrated on the Vistula, though the falling back of the Russians from Przemysl, for "strategic purposes" would indicate that the bulk of the Galician army has been shifted northward for the defense of the river.

As to the outcome of the battle of the Vistula, we have only this fact to go by: That Von Rennenkampf's beaten army, pursued into Russia by the Germans, made a fine stand on the Niemen River, and beat back the enemy across the frontier. The Russians now confronting the Germans and Austrians in Poland are made up of troops that have been victorious over the Austrians and the Galician troops. With the stimulus of previous victory, on ground of their own choosing, the Russians should give a good account of themselves along the middle Vistula between Warsaw and the Galician frontier.

10,000,000 Czar's War Strength
AMSTERDAM, Oct. 15.—Russia has more than 10,000,000 men less than 40 years old who have served under the colors and who are available for military service, according to the Berliner Tagliche Rundschau.

WAR OPERATIONS OF DAY SHOW STROKE BY ALLIES

Expert Finds German Effort to Cut Off Belgians and British a Failure—Von Boehn's Left Threatened. Kaiser Seeks to Pierce Verdun-Toul Lines.

By J. W. T. MASON

NEW YORK, Oct. 15.—General von Boehn has failed to block the retreat to the south of the Allied forces who have been resting at Ostend. The French victory at Ypres shows the way is clear at present for the escape of the sorely fatigued Belgian army and its British reinforcements. Ypres is 25 miles south of Ostend and commands the junction of three of the four main highways that run from Ostend south to the French military lines.

The retention of Ypres by the French is threatening to the southern flank of Von Hoesler's army, which is marching across Belgium with the object of driving the Anglo-Belgian forces into the sea. If the French can strike from Ypres toward the Lys River, which Von Hoesler is now using to protect his left wing, he will be forced to retreat or have his flank turned.

A series of other similar counter strokes is threatened by both sides throughout the battle area in western Belgium and northwestern France. From the given-and-take which is occurring the rival strengths appear to be about equal. Each of the contestants has divided forces. Von Hoesler's victorious army from Antwerp has not united with Von Boehn's force to the south, and the allied army that retreated from Antwerp has not, so far as is known, yet joined the retreating French corps.

The union of the Anglo-Belgian forces with the French at Ypres might permit a sudden attack in overwhelming numbers against either of the two German commands if the British and the Belgians were not exhausted. There is every indication, however, that the defense of Antwerp and the rapid retreat toward the North Sea have put the Anglo-Belgian army under great need of rest for recuperation. There undoubtedly is a reserve of defensive strength left, but the spirit necessary for a determined offensive must wait for recovery from the fatigue of nearly a fortnight's incessant fighting.

The march of the Germans to the sea will give them no military advantage if the retreating Allies escape. Almost from a strategic standpoint, the gain will be a forced change of one of the British supply bases on the northern French coast.

There can be no threat against England by a German occupation of any of the North Sea or Channel ports. So long as the British navy commands the sea, no German transports could be assembled anywhere along the Belgian or French coast for invasion of England, while seaboard Zeppelin stations would be subject to destruction by the Allies' warships.

Permanent occupation of the French and Belgian coast towns will seriously lengthen and thus weaken the German battle line, unless it coincided with a retirement from the present southern positions near the Aisne. Diplomatic reasons may demand this change in strategy. If German statements can enter a peace conference while their troops hold French or Belgian forts, more advantageous terms might be obtained than if French interior towns were held. In the present case, England as well as France would be vitally concerned; in the second, only France.

By HILAIRE BELLOC

PARIS, Oct. 15.—One of the most vital points in this 120-mile battle line is the eastern end, toward the fortified line Verdun-Toul. This region is both hilly and thickly wooded. It is a country not only of deep ravines and considerable forests, but of pasture lands cut up by bushes and full of spinneys and copses, as well as woods. To the north stretches the long, low ridge of the Argonne, a lump of clay, crossed by five or six main roads, but only two railways.

The main German effort to break the French line must be made to the west of this wooded, ravined and difficult country, for to the west of it lie plains, at first very open and bare; and even farther east there is easy rolling ploughed and heath country with wide horizons, such as is suitable to the maneuvering of great forces.

It is across this open country—the plains which take their name from the town of Châlons and the great wheat district that lies to the south and east of those plains—that the main German effort to pierce the French line, now in progress, is directed.

Upon the success or failure of this effort will largely turn the fate of France. Both armies are occupying country which has been throughout all recorded history the battlefield of the Gaucis.

It is the first time, I think, in history, that the parallel Eastern obstacles which cover France have been turned, or that an invader has been approaching from the North, but, save for this anomaly, history here repeats itself in astounding fashion. South of the great camp at Châlons is the half-starved resting place of the Champagne-Fouilleuse, utterly bare, save for dwarf plants of newly planted flax. That mournful country, which is like a tamed sea, with hillocks and rounded daps, with the dull, low line of Argonne crossing the eastern horizon, was the scene of the triumph and the death and the new resting place of Kellerman and Vainmy. Goethe lived there and found this plain like "the beginning of a new world."

A German army triumph there would mean that today.

In that same lost and barren region of the huge Catalaunian plain, along the Roman road, which skirts the Camp of Châlons, are the ramparts of that amazing thing still called the Camp of Attila. It is a huge oval bank, reminding one in the banks of those medieval racing tracks, and in its bulk and isolation it is the most impressive thing a man may see in the whole course of European travel.

This camp, of tradition of exercising fortification wherein they marched south 1400 years ago, and were broken to pieces by the discipline of the Roman legions, and by that power there is in the Latin blood to die and to bring into useful service the barbarians.

Such, then, is the nature of the ground, and such the position of the opposing forces at the most critical point in this campaign.

By E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT
LONDON, Oct. 15.—It seems as if the struggle has reached such a complicated stage that the most highly organized General Staff is incapable of exercising even general control over the movements of any particular group of armies, and such is the position of the field generals as acting more or less independently. The principal fact is that both armies have executed an almost complete change of front since the battle of the Marne. They are now holding vastly more extended lines, running almost north and south.

The "Aisne" line stretches from Ghent or its environs to Soissons. For the last ten days the Germans have concentrated their main efforts on breaking through the center of the allied line at two points, between Arras and Albert and between Roye and Lassigny.

Their object has been to reach Amiens and thus control the railroads running north, but they have entirely failed in the main object.

As a whole, the situation of the Allies daily becomes more favorable. Everywhere they have held their own, and in several places have gained a town.

PRZEMYSL STILL BESIEGED; LEMBERG IN CZAR'S HANDS
Petrograd War Office Denies Vienna's Claim of Recent Successes.
PETROGRAD, Oct. 15.—In view of the great battle raging along the Vistula, the Galician campaign has become insignificant. The War Department, however, claims successful continuance of the siege of Przemysl and denies the Austrian reoccupation of Lemberg.

The news agency, by authority of the War Office, issued a denial of claims of victories in Galicia, as announced in Vienna, saying:

"The Austrian announcement of the rout of the Russians at Przemysl and the recapture of Lemberg is wholly untrue. The operations at Przemysl are progressing successfully and the fall of that fortress may be expected at any time. It is reported that cholera has broken out in the garrison there. Part of the main forts have been silenced by the Russian artillery."

"The statements issued in Vienna may recall the fact that when the Russians were overwhelming the Austrians in Galicia and advancing westward rapidly, the Austrian General Staff explained the retreat of their forces as a strategic withdrawal."

BERLIN, Oct. 15.—The War Office has issued the following statement:

"The Russians have been defeated near Schirwind with a loss of 1500 prisoners and 20 cannon.

"The German forces have repulsed the Russian south through Southern Poland back to Warsaw and to the Vistula."

The Ambassador stated that the withdrawal of about 4000 Italian troops from Cyrenaica and Tripoli was due to the creation of a colonial volunteer force, which had been determined upon long before the European war began. The men returned to Italy, he said, were chiefly those whose two-year term of service was about to expire. He declined to comment on the Turkish and Balkan situation.

Spanish Parliament Convenes Oct. 30
MADRID, Oct. 15.—The Spanish Parliament will convene on October 30, according to royal decree.

PORTUGAL EAGER TO TAKE UP ARMS FOR ALLIES' CAUSE

Congress Prepares for Mobilization of 150,000 War Strength and Martial Law Is Proclaimed in African Colonies.

LISBON, Oct. 15.—Lisbon is greatly excited by the belief that soon the Republic's army will be fighting side by side with the French and British in France, and that the Portuguese navy will join the patrol of the European coast with the British and French warships.

The President and the Cabinet have called a special session of Congress on Friday for the purpose of authorizing the complete mobilization of Portuguese troops.

It is not likely there will be an actual declaration of war until after Congress meets tomorrow. The order for mobilization is considered here tantamount to a declaration of war.

Portugal is unanimous in its determination. The leaders of all parties have been in conference with the President and the Cabinet, and the decision to call Congress was the result.

There is great enthusiasm for war in the army and among the people. Martial law has been declared in the Portuguese Congo, which is bordered on the south by German Southwest Africa, according to dispatches received here from Loanda. This is interpreted as meaning that already there have been clashes between the German and Portuguese forces there, perhaps similar to that caused by the effects to spread revolt through the British Union of South Africa.

The Portuguese possessions in western Africa, known as the Portuguese Congo and Portuguese West Africa, lie just north of German Southwest Africa. To the north are the French Congo and the Belgian Congo, and on the east is Rhodesia, part of the British possessions. On the west is the Atlantic Ocean.

German residents are already fleeing from Lisbon, many of them having started for Madrid in anticipation of a declaration of war by Portugal against Germany. The German Minister is prepared to leave the capital at a moment's notice.

Numerous British steamships have been in the harbor for several weeks, to be ready to move the Portuguese army when war is declared, and it has been confidently expected that various treaties would be made as soon as Portugal was thoroughly prepared. Portugal is the ally of Great Britain, the entity of the young republic being guaranteed by a treaty with Great Britain. England has been representing to Portugal the need of her troops in the battle line of the Allies against Germany and has indicated that if Germany is the victor Portugal's national identity will be lost.

WAR FOOTING 150,000.
While the peace strength of the Portuguese army is less than 30,000 men, provision is made for an active army of 150,000 at war strength. The country is divided into eight military zones, from each of which can be recruited one active division and two brigades of reserve infantry. The islands form three special districts.

The annual conscription is fixed at 17,000 men. From the regular army are taken the men of the Republican Guard and the Fiscal Guard.

The active army consists of eight divisions, each containing four regiments of infantry of three battalions each; one section of machine guns, one regiment of three battalions of field artillery, one regiment of cavalry of four squadrons, one company of engineers, with pontoon train, and signal, sanitary and medical troops. Besides this there is an independent cavalry brigade of three regiments of four squadrons each, with machine gun battery; one park of pontoons, a battalion of field telegraph, a company of garrison telegraphers, one of wireless telegraphers, one of aeronauts and two railway companies. There also are two regiments of mountain artillery, one battalion of horse artillery, two battalions of siege artillery and three extra batteries of mountain guns, besides batteries of machine guns and engineer and fortress troops. For the islands there are three regiments of infantry.

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